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Nellis hero receives Flying Cross

By Staff Sgt. Ed Scott
AWFC Public Affairs

A USAF Weapons School captain recently received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his efforts in Operation Allied Force over the former Republic of Yugoslavia March 24 during the first offensive action in NATO's history.

Operation Allied Force was a 79-day air campaign carried out in response to what President Clinton called Yugoslavia president Slobodan Milosevic's "brutal repression in Kosovo."

Capt. Mike Shower was escorting the first of two strike packages — one package flew into southern Serbia which was actually Kosovo while Capt. Shower's package went north over Belgrade. The strike packages were made up of 10 F-117s and two B-2 bombers with escort coming from F-15Cs and F-16CJs.

"It was crystal clear and dark, with about a 50 percent moon," said Capt.



Photo by Staff Sgt. James Bryan

Capt. Mike Shower performs a preflight inspection prior to takeoff.

Shower. "The Serbs left all their lights on — it looked like you were flying over Disneyland. They left every light on so you could see everything in the whole

country of Serbia.

"When we pushed from Hungary you could just about see Kosovo," he said.

See Shower on Page 3

Jumper assumes command of ACC

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS) — Gen. John P. Jumper assumed command of Air Combat Command from Gen. Ed Eberhart here Feb. 8, becoming ACC's fifth commander.

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, presided over the ceremony. Also participating were the Honorable F. Whitten Peters, Secretary of the Air Force and Admiral Harold W. Gehman, Jr., U.S. Navy, Supreme Allied Commander and commander in chief, U.S. Joint Forces Command.

"These are men who have exhibited great courage and caring in their leadership and a great capacity for bringing positive change to their units and organizations," Gen. Ryan said.

Upon taking command, Gen. Jumper, a 1966 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute's Reserve Officer Training Corps, described the challenges facing the command.

"Our first and biggest challenge is



Courtesy Photo

The new Air Command Command Commander, Gen. John P. Jumper addresses the crowd during his change of command at Langley Air Force Base, Va., Feb. 8.

to bring aboard this idea of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force," he

said. "We have to put stability in our people's lives."

People need predictability so they know what to look forward to so they can plan their personal lives, Gen. Jumper said.

We will continue to fight to improve combat capability, he said. We have to "get lighter, we have to get leaner, we have to get there quicker. It's the 'rapid' part that makes us valuable to our nation."

He emphasized the need for the resources to do the job and to do things that will keep people in the Air Force.

Speaking before a crowd of 1,000 military, civilian, community leaders and guests, Gen. Jumper acknowledged that, "We are all privileged to serve with these great airmen and I look forward to leading them."

Gen. Jumper comes from Ramstein Air Base, Germany where he was U.S.

See Jumper on Page 2



Reserve unit augments Red Flag, Capstone

By Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch
934th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Minnesota Air Force reservists deployed to Nellis for their annual duty found excellent training, hard work and a welcome break from sub-freezing weather, cloudy skies and snow-covered streets. Although the Nevada weather was in stark contrast to the Upper Midwest, training and duty requirements were very much the same as 40 members of the 934th Airlift Wing's Logistics Support Squadron proved that 'Total Force' works.

'Total Force' and 'Mirror Force' dictate that the Reserve and active duty forces blend seamlessly together and that's exactly what happened. "You wouldn't know the difference," commented Master Sgt. Tony Polisenio, 934th LSS, vehicle mechanic supervisor. By the second day, reservists were making engine and safety modifications, repairs and upgrades, pulling engines and conducting classes on forklift safety and operations for reservists and active-duty mechanics.

Having the opportunity to actually put their skills to the test is another advantage to reservists training at Nellis. "Our vehicles are used a little during the week but mostly only one weekend a month," explained Senior Airman Martina Delp, 934th vehicle maintenance

apprentice. "They're in great shape. Here, there's a lot more going on. I'm learning how to trouble shoot problems," she said while working on a 25K-cargo loader with a malfunctioning parking brake.

Reservists enable an active-duty unit to keep pace with the extraordinary demands of supporting exercises and demonstrations such as Red Flag and Capstone. "We've helped Vehicle Maintenance get to 103 percent of available ready equipment," commented Tech. Sgt. Gary Rolli, 934th Transportation Shop supervisor.

Reservists take advantage of all training opportunities, especially those not available in Minneapolis. The 99th Supply Squadron uses a wireless computerized system of inventory demand processing, a process not yet available to the reservists.

"Someday we'll get this equipment," said Master Sgt. LaVerne Terwey, NCO in-charge of Demand Processing, 934th Supply Squadron. "Meanwhile, we've received great exposure to the systems we'll use when we're deployed."

Unlike an active duty base, the reservists' home station has little need to process inbound and outbound people and household goods. The Nellis Traffic Management Office provided

needed training with processing freight and personal property. "We learn all the systems that we don't have back home," said Tech. Sgt. Alma Delagarza, 934th Air Transportation specialist. Those systems include quality control, ensuring civilian shippers pack and unpack household goods properly. "It is so nice to learn all the different parts of TMO, like shipping personal property and customer service," she continued. "I think our active duty counterparts are surprised that we're taking the initiative to learn. This is a great base and an awesome annual tour."

The 65-degree weather presents more training advantages than a winter in Minnesota. Learning to back up a tractor-trailer was a required upgrade task put on hold for Master Sgt. Jeff Nyhus, 934th Supply Squadron materials inspection specialist, until the Nellis deployment.

"My training would have to wait until spring when the roads are clear of ice and snow back home," he said. "Here I get all the practice I need and get my core competencies checked off."

Reservists attended trainer and certifier classes for the AF Form 623 on-the-job training record, as well as other readily available classes.

"The CPR class was the best so far," said Senior Airman Barbara Ostler, 934th Supply journeyman.



Photo by Master Sgt. Darrell Habisch

Minnesota reservists Senior Airman Eric Drexler and Staff Sgt. Martina Delp adjust hydraulic hoses on a cargo loader.

Seven people were certified for two-year CPR certificates, allowing the squadron to be better prepared during deployments and annual fitness tests.

The timing of the Minnesota deployment "couldn't have been better," Capt. Brian Haugen, 934th LSS deployment commander said. "The fuels, vehicle operations and maintenance folks were swamped with the exercises going on now and we were happy to help."

Jumper

Continued from Page 1

Air Forces in Europe commander. He is a command pilot with 4,000 flying hours, principally in fighter aircraft. He served two tours in Southeast Asia, accumulating more than 1,400 combat hours.

As the commander of ACC, Gen. Jumper

oversees 1,050 aircraft and approximately 103,400 active-duty military and civilian people at installations in the United States, Iceland and the Azores.

ACC organizes, trains, equips and maintains combat-ready forces for rapid deployment and employment while ensuring strategic air defense forces are ready to meet the challenges of peacetime

air sovereignty and wartime defense.

Gen. Eberhart will become commander in chief of U.S. Space Command, commander in chief of North American Aerospace Defense Command, commander of Air Force Space Command and Department of Defense manager for Space Transportation Systems Contingency Support at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

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Shower

Continued from Page 1

"It's not a big country and you could see from one end to the other — it's pretty impressive."

Capt. Shower said he was scared when the strike package first crossed the line — especially since his package was the first in and last out.

"I've been to Iraq on three different trips in the no fly zone and it's sort of a joke to us that it's a combat zone," he said. "If you got shot down and you bailed out it would become critical pretty fast because you're still the bad guy."

"But when we crossed that line it was like — wow! — This is a real conflict, a full-up war," he said. "They're going to fight and try to defend themselves. This hit me pretty hard because I'd never been in this before."

Approximately four minutes into the push, Capt. Shower said they hear a "Splash one MiG-29" call from AWACS from the South strike package. We got a little excited at that point since there was no doubt the Serbian's were going to launch their aircraft. Six minutes into the mission, the captain's radar picture was complicated by an unidentified aircraft taking off from Batajinica Airfield, a MiG-29 base in northern Belgrade.

"From that point I went from being afraid and looking outside the airplane for surface-to-air missiles launching to being physically afraid, something like paralysis," he said. "I went from this is real combat and I could die to hey they're going to fly their airplanes."

"In a nanosecond my whole mentality switched from this is war and I could die tonight to there's airplanes flying and I better do my job. I went from being afraid to watching the radar and into more of an adrenaline mode and I have to protect the package."

Capt. Shower said once the aircraft call had been made, training took over and the fear went away in just a few seconds. At that moment, the strike package faced another challenge — protecting aircraft the escorts could not see nor had any idea as to their location. The F-117s work independently and have their own flying lines and timing.

"It's not like a typical package that is all together and you can be a shepherd," he said. "You can't see them on radar. It's dark so you can't see them visibly. You really don't know where they're at, so altitude really becomes important."

Capt. Shower relayed the information stating the MiG-29 posed a serious threat. One minute later, after

ensuring a clear field of fire and a positive identification, he launched two AIM-120C Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles. Not observing a fire ball, he pressed that attack well within range of the MiG-29's own missile line of fire.

"Under

normal circumstances I could have fired my missiles turned and ran away," he said. "You don't know where they are (F-117s) so I didn't think I had a choice of turning around and running away. You've got a MiG-29 running around in the area and there is a chance he could get lucky and find a stealth."

The chance the MiG-29 could have found a friendly made the situation risk factor high so Capt. Shower said "we had to get in there and get the guy."

While shooting at the MiG-29, there happened to be a F-117 between Capt. Shower's F-15C and the MiG-29. The next night, the F-117 pilot told Capt. Shower the first time he knew he was in an engagement with the MiG-29 was when he saw the first two missiles come across the top of his aircraft. Going into defensive posture, the MiG-29 gave the impression of defending itself.

"The F-117 was in the middle of the engagement," said Capt. Shower. "We had to be willing to push inside and kill'em."

"He (the MiG-29) was about six miles away and I'm up pretty high pointing at him when I took my last shot," Capt. Shower said.

Capt. Shower said the final shot illuminated his aircraft from the rocket plume so the F-117 pilot could tell the two aircraft were approximately 2,000 feet from each other. The missile went right across the front of his aircraft down to the MiG-29 which blows up about 7,000 feet underneath the F-117. The MiG-29 crashed within 25 nautical miles of Batajinica Airfield.

"If it had been daytime, there might have been a whole different ending to the story," Capt. Shower said.

Four minutes after this engagement another MiG-29 took off from the airfield and once again Capt. Shower committed his flight to the engagement.

"You're thinking you might get one of these (MiG-29) in a night and here we are getting another one 11 minutes



Photo by Senior Airman Gary Guese

Left, Brig. Gen. David Moody, 57th Wing commander presents Capt. Mike Shower, USAF Weapons School F-15C Division, with his Distinguished Flying Cross Jan. 14.

information — there was no doubt, but I couldn't shoot." Not being able to identify the aircraft, Capt. Shower had to break off the intercept turning away from the MiG-29. The MiG-29 continued North apparently chasing a part of the strike package, later turning back South. In the meantime, Capt Shower turned his element South after AWACS called out three other MiGs south of his position.

"We're quite concerned and excited with the call of three MiGs south of us over Belgrade," he said.

"I drive over Belgrade to the edge of the SAM rings and there's nothing there," he said. About that time the other MiG-29 in the North turned around, called by the F-16's. Capt Shower turned his element North and ran a final intercept, achieving a lock and ID as a hostile Mig-29. He took a single shot at 5 miles but observed no fireball and was unable to pull in behind the MiG-29 for a second shot due to the close range and nighttime considerations. After spinning his

into the mission," he said. The mission called for them to have an hour in-country.

"Here he is in the beam (radar missile sites) and I knew he was the bad guy, but we can't get a full ID on him," he said. "We were lacking one piece of

element for spacing he was able to achieve another lock on, but could not get close enough to the MiG-29 to fire before reaching the SAM rings around Belgrade.

"I'd had enough fun for one night and I was glad it was time to return home," he said.

During the 50-minute flight back, Capt. Shower said he started sitting down lower in his seat — "sorta becoming jello." Returning home he started hearing the radio calls, "one kill, possibly two along with the other package possibly getting one." He said the adrenaline started kicking in again. By the time he landed, he said the parking area was filled with people wanting to see the aircraft and hear the stories.

"I had shot four missiles in one night and punched off the wing tanks, so I had the only plane that looked empty," he said. "Everybody was shaking hands and my wing man jumped me."

Prior to the flight, a maintenance man had approached Capt. Shower and handed him a baseball that had been designated as the squadron's "Grim Reaper Ball."

"The maintenance man told me he felt like I was going to do something tonight and asked me to take the ball up with me," Capt. Shower said. The captain stuck the ball in his helmet bag and loaded it into his map case.

"Sure enough, this reaper ball for the squadron is with me on the first mission when I get a kill," he said. "I thought that was pretty cool and when I held it up everybody started cheering."

Capt. Shower said everything was really exciting for the next few hours — "basically, I didn't sleep until the next day."

ATMs on Nellis

Nevada Federal Credit Union ATMs

Walk-Up 24 hours, at the credit union.

Two drive-up ATMs, behind the credit union

Outside of the Shoppette, near the Garden Center and Commissary Base exchange lobby (available during BX hours of operations)

Manch Manor Shoppette (available Mondays through Fridays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Armed Forces Bank ATMs

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Base exchange (available during BX hours of operation)

Shoppette

Commissary entry way (available during hours of operation)

Billeting Office, 24 hours

Time Out (available during hours of operation)

Indian Springs Lodging Office, 24 hours







Action Line

commander.action@nellis.af.mil

652-4636



Col. Andrew Dichter
99th Air Base Wing

Nellis' Action Line is your direct line to the 99th Air Base Wing commander, Col. Andrew Dichter. If you have worked through normal channels and are not satisfied with the answer, the Action Line is your opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions about the subjects of concern to the Nellis community.

Please leave your name and phone number in case more specific information is required. You may also use our e-mail address: commander.action@nellis.af.mil. Action Lines of general interest will be published in the Bullseye; others will be answered by phone. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to solve a problem is to talk directly to the office that is responsible. This gives them a chance to help you and perhaps improve the process.

Helpful phone numbers

BX Customer Service - 644-2044
Commissary - 643-7919
Child Development Center I - 652-4241
Child Development Center II - 652-5885
Finance (mil-pay) - 652-4844
Fitness Center - 652-6433
Hospital Appointment Desk - 653-2778

Information assurance is for everyone

By Lt. Col. David Uhrich
Air Combat Command

February is Information Assurance Month, and it allows us to start looking at the critical need to protect our information and information systems.

I know some of you are asking yourselves, "Why are we spending all this time and energy talking about information assurance?"

Well, quite simply, in the profession of arms, we base everything on information.

We collect, store, transmit, process, and analyze a tremendous amount of information - every minute of every day. Intelligence, command and control, weather, logistics, and combat are all information-intensive operations. Without getting the right information, to the right place, at the right time, in the right format,

we could never dream of finding that spare engine or dropping precision guided munitions on the right bunker.

Clearly, you can all appreciate our heavy reliance on information technology to fight and win our nation's wars. We need satellites, radios, data networks, computers, telephones, and a hundred other pieces of technology to win the Information Superiority battle. But, with all this technology comes a myriad of vulnerabilities to our information and information systems.

We're vulnerable to electronic jamming and interception of our communications. Our computers and computer networks are constantly under attack - not always from a traditional adversary, sometimes it's just a bored teenager with a home computer, modem, and instructions from a hacker web site.

The availability and relatively low cost of these technologies in the global market increase the likelihood that potential adversaries will use them against us.

Protecting these critical assets is the foundation of our information assurance efforts. While it's true that there are a lot of vulnerabilities, it's also true that there is much each of us can do help the information assurance cause.

Accept the challenge and become an information assurance warrior and help us maintain our information superiority.

Help solve a crime

The 99th Security Forces has established a "Secret Witness" Hotline. Callers may remain anonymous. The number is 652-8089.



SECDEF reassures servicemembers about anthrax vaccine



Courtesy photo

Secretary of Defense William H. Cohen.

By William S. Cohen
Secretary of Defense

One of the clearest responsibilities of any secretary of defense is to protect the men and women the United States deploys in harm's way around the world to safeguard our national interests.

That is why I, acting on the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, decided to start vaccinating every member of the military against exposure to anthrax, a highly lethal biological agent that at least 10 countries possess in their arsenals or are in the process of acquiring.

In 1996, the Joint Chiefs of Staff identified anthrax as the number one biological threat to our troops. After the Gulf War, United Nations inspectors confirmed that Iraq had produced thousands of gallons of anthrax and deployed it in missile warheads, artillery shells and spray tanks for use from airplanes.

As a weapon of mass destruction, anthrax is cheap and much easier to develop than nuclear munitions.

When dispersed in aerosol form, the colorless, odorless bacteria covers a wide area and kills people within several days of inhalation.

In 1979, approximately 70 Russians died after breathing anthrax spores that escaped from a Soviet biological research facility.

Fortunately, Iraq did not use anthrax against our troops during Desert Storm in 1991, but we can't expect that future adversaries, including terrorists, would not do so. At a time when the

U.S. maintains clear conventional military superiority, enemies will be tempted to turn to unconventional weapons, such as anthrax, as a way to defeat our troops.

Although anthrax is highly deadly, we have developed protective equipment and medicines to secure the safety of our troops. In 1970,

the Food and Drug Administration licensed a vaccine to protect humans

who might be exposed to anthrax. This vaccine has a proven safety record over 30 years of use by thousands of veterans, woolworkers and veterinarians.

Protective gear provides only temporary protection, while the vaccine constantly protects troops who might breathe anthrax spores spread on the battlefield.

After evaluating the anthrax threat and the safety of the vaccine, the general who commands U.S. troops in the Middle East requested that all troops deployed to the Arabian Gulf area be vaccinated for anthrax protection.

Every day approximately 20,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines stationed in the Gulf wake up knowing that they could encounter an anthrax attack.

The commander of the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea, who face an anthrax threat from North Korea, also requested vaccinations for his forces.

The Joint Chiefs reviewed these proposals in light of their conclusion that anthrax is the foremost biological threat to our troops. They recommended mandatory anthrax vaccination for all 2.4 million active and reserve members of our military, with the first shots going to troops in or scheduled to go to the Middle East and Korea. They reasoned that force protection should not be optional; just as it is inconceivable to allow a soldier to fight without a helmet, it makes little sense to send a soldier into battle without protection against a known threat like anthrax.

Because our military must be able to deploy anywhere on short notice, they recommended vaccinations for all active and reserve personnel.

I supported the recommendation of our military leaders. But before launching the vaccination program, I took steps to make sure that we were prepared. Complaints that the Department of Defense mishandled exposure to Agent Orange and the illnesses suffered by some veterans following the Gulf War in 1991 damaged the military's credibility on medical issues.

We have worked hard to correct and learn from these experiences, and one of the lessons is that our medical programs to protect soldiers in battle

must be planned and implemented with an emphasis on safety.

As a result, I decided to delay vaccinations until four conditions were met.

First, I ordered supplemental testing, consistent with FDA standards, to assure that the vaccine supplies are sterile, safe, potent and pure.

Second, I instructed the services to design a system that accurately tracks personnel who received the six shots required in the vaccination program.

Third, I required the services to develop plans for educating people about the program and administering the immunizations.

Finally, I ordered an independent review of the health and medical protocols of the program. This was performed by Dr. Gerald Burrow, the highly respected former dean of the Yale Medical School, who assisted the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses.

The vaccinations began in 1998 after these four conditions were met. Gen. Hugh Shelton, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and I were among the first to receive the shots. We experienced the same mild side effects, such as temporary soreness or a small bump on the arm, that many others feel.

Indeed, the side effects are frequently less than those caused by other routine vaccinations that most Americans routinely receive. Our careful monitoring of the program reveals no unexpected side effects. Nevertheless, if our troops experience a negative reaction, we provide quality medical care.

More than 400,000 active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have started receiving the series of six shots, while only about 300 have refused vaccinations. We take seriously the concerns that people have raised about the program, and we are in the process of distributing additional educational material to explain the program to military members and their families.

We have bolstered our website www.anthrax.osd.mil to counter some of the erroneous assertions about the vaccine that are circulating on the Internet. We are continuing to monitor the safety of our vaccine supplies.

The military does not want to lose a single member because of his or her concerns over this program. But most of all, we don't want to run the risk of losing thousands of men and women in uniform from an anthrax attack for which we are unprepared.

The threat is real, and we are carrying out a prudent, safe program to counter the dangers our troops face.

Hearts Apart is a morale group for people whose spouses are either deployed or on extended TDY. Free calls and support group are some of the benefits of this program. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 652-3327.

Nellis Moms

If you're a Nellis mom and are looking for new and exciting things to do with your children, come join us! For more information, call 633-7033 or 643-2702.

The 99th Security Forces Investigation has a lost and found section with many items found around the Nellis community. If you think you can identify your lost items, call 652-8091.



Nellis News

Utility Replacement

Replacement of the underground water and sewer main lines, manholes and fire hydrants in the older section of Nellis Terrace will begin this month. The project will include trenching along Swaab, Cook, J.R. Crane, Chambers, Jones, Hunter, Baer and Kinley streets. During construction, short-term utility outages and road closures will be necessary. The project will continue throughout the year. For more information call 652-8442.

Retired Officers' Wives Club

The ROWC plays bridge at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Officers' Club. Call 433-0439 for reservations.

AREA meeting

The Southern Chapter of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Retired Employees Association holds a luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. March 8 at Houllihan's, 1951 N. Rainbow Blvd. Call 645-0400 for reservations before March 5.

Reserve briefings

A Palace Chase Air Force Reserve briefing will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Bldg. 20, Room 202. Any military member with a separation date more than a year from now wanting to separate early should attend this briefing. For more information, call 652-9073.

A Palace Front Air Force Reserve briefing will be at 1 p.m. March 2 in Bldg. 20, Room 319. Military members with a date of separation in August or earlier should have received notification of this briefing. For more information or for make-up dates, call 652-4806.

Self Help open Saturdays

Beginning this Saturday, the Self Help Store is open from 8 a.m. to noon every third Saturday of the month. For more information, call 652-2740.

CBIVA meeting

The China Burma India Veterans Association holds their monthly luncheon meeting at noon Feb. 28 at the Fiesta Hotel and Casino private dining room in the buffet. For more information call 260-4244.

CGOC meeting

The Company Grade Officer's Council holds its next meeting at 4 p.m. March 10 at the Officers' Club.

Munition flight closed

The 57th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight closes March 1 through 31 for a 100 percent inventory.

All requested assets must be picked up no-later-than Feb 18. Only validated emergency requests will be honored during this period.

For more information call 652-1283.

Maintenance banquet

The 57th Wing holds its 1999 Maintenance Professional of the Year banquet Feb. 26 at the Flamingo Hilton Hotel. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 6:45 p.m.

Main course is breast of chicken Angelo.

Guest speaker is retired Col. Michael D. Meyer, former 57th Logistics Group commander. Dress for this occasion is: officer – mess dress; enlisted - mess dress or semi-formal; civilian – semi-formal.

See maintenance chiefs for tickets.

Prices are \$23 for master sergeants and below; \$26 for civilians, senior master sergeants and above.



TRICARE: Not perfect but getting better

By (Ret.) Lt. Col. George Kelling
Wilford Hall Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — I think I'm one of the victims of broken promises. I entered the Army in 1958, and while I don't remember anyone specifically telling me that I would have free healthcare for life.

I certainly went through my Army career with the understanding that military healthcare would be there for me until I curled up my toes and went to the big reveille formation in the sky.

As we enter a new century, it is clear that things have changed and that we are going to have to participate in the cost of the healthcare we receive. In our indignation over the costs involved in TRICARE, we often forget what we get for our money.

The free healthcare we expected was the very product which inspired

"MASH," "No Time for Sergeants" and a host of other satires about the military life. Our focus was on care, of whatever quality, at no cost.

I am familiar with three sides of the TRICARE issue. I was an Army medic, am now a retired soldier, and currently work in the Air Force's largest medical center.

Perhaps because of this background, my pragmatism overrides my indignation, and I feel that my family and I have all the healthcare in the world available, although at a slight cost.

I have seen the miracles that today's medicine produces. Many of today's routine healthcare measures, such as MRI, assisted reproduction and laser eye surgery were just dreams 35 years ago. I don't want free, 1958-era care. I want state-of-the-art care, and it is extremely expensive.

As an Air Force employee in public affairs, I have been charged

with telling the story of military medicine and TRICARE. I hear complaints as well as praises, and I have seen enough to depend on TRICARE and to want it to stay.

Under the TRICARE system, my family has guaranteed, high-quality healthcare, either on base or downtown. There is a cost, but it is a great value for the money.

Finally, as a pragmatic retiree and healthcare consumer, I put my family's health ahead of the righteous indignation I might feel over perceived broken promises.

In the days before TRICARE, getting healthcare was similar to a weekend in Las Vegas. If you hit the jackpot, you got the best care in the world on base for nothing. On the other hand, if you miss out and the care was not available, you were on your own, trying to find care downtown with little guidance and limited subsidy.

As a TRICARE Prime enrollee, it

is all there for me, although I have to pay something. Even if the care is not available on base, I have expert assistance in getting quality care downtown.

Do I enjoy paying \$460 per year for TRICARE Prime? Not at all. Does the system work perfectly? By no means. Is TRICARE as customer-friendly as it could be? It has a long way to go.

In military treatment facilities, is the system hassle-free? I wish it were. I think the more important questions though are in the quality of what I get. I would like nickel-a-gallon gasoline, eternal bliss and free healthcare.

In the imperfect world I inhabit, I settle for going to the corner gas station, being reasonably happy and using TRICARE. It works, and it is a system my family and I have found we can count on. I hope TRICARE stays, although there is certainly room for improvement.



Warrior of the Week



Staff Sgt. Johnny R. Roper

Unit: 57th Aircraft Generation Squadron

Duty Title: Weapons Load Crew Chief

Hometown: Simpsonville, S.C.

Time in Air Force: 8 years

Time at Nellis: 3 years 6 months

Hobbies: Sports, computers and reading

Goals: Finish my Bachelor's degree and have a long, productive Air Force career

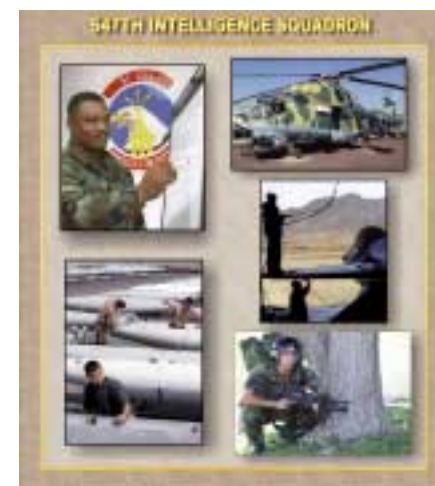
If I could improve one thing at Nellis: How the base hospital referral system works

Most significant Air Force memories: Winning 57th Wing Load Crew of the Quarter in January.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Molly A. Gilliam

Nellis Now



The 547th Intelligence Squadron provides intelligence reports for both the 57th Wing and the 99th Air Base Wing. Their evaluations and reports are used by all members of the Department of Defense.











E-commerce is the wave of the future for AF



Courtesy photo

**By Lt. Col. Allan J. Palombo
99th Contracting Squadron
commander**

Our country is enjoying the best economic times in U.S. history. Many believe the billions of dollars invested in computers and other high-tech products have boosted U.S. productivity leading to this unprecedented economy. U.S. businesses are leading the world in developing and using electronic business practices to improve products and lower the operating costs. The key is paperless transactions, or e-commerce.

Business-to-business e-commerce is becoming the most profound and widespread application of today's Internet. Every business from plumbing contractors to investment bankers will be affected by this new transaction mode. Any firm lacking this capacity will be severely restricted in competing and garnering business. All business owners, whether large or small, will need to grasp the implications of their technology and its strategic implications on their industry and businesses to move into the 21st century and be competitive.

The Department of Defense's drive toward using e-commerce in its acquisition, business practices includes the Automated Business Services System. It allows funding documents to be electronically transmitted to the Contracting Office eliminating errors and delays associated with manual processing, and expediting delivery of goods and services to the requiring office. The Electronic Mall once fully deployed will provide one-stop ordering as well the status of orders. IMPAC cardholders can place electronic orders less than \$25,000 against competitive pre-priced contracts significantly reducing the

time needed to obtain supply items. In addition, the Electronic Posting allows buyers to post notices of procurements and solicitations directly to the Internet creating worldwide access to Air Force-wide requirements. This eliminates redundant systems, and avoids time and costs associated with manually distributing solicitations. Near-term enhancements will allow vendors to submit proposals electronically. Eventually, all vendors, contractors, and suppliers wishing to do business with the Department of Defense must be e-commerce enabled.

In 1999, units using the credit card purchased nearly \$17 million in goods and services without written contracts. This electronic transaction gives commanders an excellent tool to purchase requirements immediately as well as saving paper and lowering operating costs. Contracts require all invoices to be paid through Electronic Funds Transfer and eventually will require vendors to invoice electronically.

Many of you remember when we were encouraged to participate in the direct deposit paycheck program. Now direct deposit is mandatory, saving the taxpayers millions of dollars. EFT is a similar program to

electronically pay vendors. Again, saving millions of dollars and paper.

The system being installed on many of your computers this month will clearly save money, and reduce procurement lead-time. We no longer send hardcopies of contracts to Defense Finance Accounting Service. This information is now electronically transmitted under the Joint Electronic Data Access system, further reducing paper products.

In addition, we are in the middle of installing the DoD Standard Procurement System. SPS will provide a fully functional Automated Information System that will standardize procurement business practices and data elements throughout DoD.

99th Contracting Squadron is on the leading edge of e-commerce. By employing advanced computer technology and systems and modern business practices we are rapidly moving toward an environment that lowers administrative and overhead costs, and quickens the pace of the procurement process. Taking advantage of this technology will allow us to focus on market research, acquisition planning, and commercial practices to select only the best contractors for our customers.





Unless otherwise indicated, all show times are at 7 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 1 p.m. Call 652-5020 for more information.

Today

Man on the Moon (R)
Jim Carey, J. Alan Thomas

Man on the Moon is a biographical movie about the late comedian Andy Kaufman, an eccentric comedian who went on to enjoy a career as a lovable foreign car mechanic, Latka Gravas on TV's "Taxi" and later gained infamy as an inter-gender wrestling champ. The film studies some of Kaufman's comedy antics as well as his personal life and his relationship with his manager George Shapiro, his best friend Bob Zmuda and his girlfriend Lynne. *Language, brief sexuality and nudity.*

Saturday

Any Given Sunday (R)
Al Pacino, Dennis Quaid

This drama is about the interlocking fates and experiences of a diverse group of people involved with a powerful professional sports franchise. An aging star quarterback is induced to play hurt because he knows a gifted and unprincipled young talent is seeking his spot on the team. The coach struggles to remain true to the ideas that drew him

to his career, as the ambitious young owner of the team pressures him to view the players as properties in a high-stake business. *Strong language and some nudity.*

Sunday, Monday

Any Given Sunday (R)

Tuesday, Wednesday

The Bicentennial Man (PG)
Robin Williams, Sam Neill

In the first decade of the new millennium, Richard Martin buys a gift, a new NDR-114 robot. The product is named Andrew by the youngest of the family's children. As Andrew begins to experience emotions and creative thought, the Martin family soon discovers they don't have an ordinary robot. *Language and some sexual content.*



American Red Cross
652-2106

Orientation

American Red Cross volunteer orientation is held at the Mike O'Callaghan Federal Hospital at 10 a.m. Fridays. Individuals need to bring their shot records.

Chapel
652-2950

Catholic worship

Mass: Monday through Friday: 11:30 a.m.

Saturday: Reconciliation, 4:30 p.m.; Mass, 5 p.m.

Sunday: Mass, 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Protestant worship

Sunday: Gospel service: 8 a.m.

Traditional service: 11:15 a.m.

Classes and activities

Catholic: Classes for grades 3 through 12 from 8:20 to 9:30 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. and a Sacramental Class is also offered from 11 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. Sundays.

Adult RCIA: Adults who want to learn more

about the Roman Catholic faith, come to RCIA at 1:45 p.m. Sundays in the annex.

Protestant: Religious education classes (18 months-adult) Sundays from 9:35 to 10:50 a.m.

Men of the Chapel meets every first and third Tuesday in the Chapel basement from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Protestant Youth of the Chapel (grades 7 through 12) meets 3 to 5 p.m. Sundays. They will be participating in World Vision's 30-hour Famine Feb. 25 and 26 to raise money for world hunger.

Protestant Women of the Chapel meets noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays and are studying Desiring God's Own Heart.

Singles are taking a ski trip to Utah Feb. 25 through 27. They meet 6 to 7:15 p.m. Wednesdays at the Chapel Annex for a video series on the Song of Solomon which deals with dating and relationships. For more information, call Chaplain (1st Lt.) Christopher Cooper at 652-2950.

Officers' Christian Fellowship is studying 1 Thessalonians at home meetings. For more information on Sunday night meetings call 643-5739 or for Monday night meetings call 869-9559.

Family Advocacy
653-3884

PREP

This nine-hour class offers clear, practical techniques to build healthy communication skills for committed couples. The class is offered free to active duty members and their families. Registration is required and class dates and times will be set once enough couples sign up.

Post-partum

A two-hour class designed to provide parents the knowledge to manage the post-partum experience. Classes are offered 2 to 4 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Breast feeding

Practical and useful information is provided in this two-hour class. Classes are offered 2 to 4 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Boys Town parenting

Boys Town Common Sense Parenting minimizes theory and maximizes real world learning and is applicable for children 3 and up. Registration is required and class dates and times will be set once enough couples sign up.

HAWC
653-3376

Web Page

The HAWC web site is 99mdg.nellis.af.mil/hawc1.htm. Check for all HAWC program information. Please note: Located on the web site is a tobacco cessation correspondence course designed to help individuals quit smoking that can not attend the regularly scheduled classes at the HAWC. Individuals must complete the correspondence course before the Nicoderm patch and Zyban are prescribed.

Commander's Wellness Cup

The 2000 Commander's Wellness Cup Competition will begin with a 5k Fun Run/Walk, Feb. 25 starting at 7:30 a.m. at the Sports and Fitness Center. Pre-register at the Sports and Fitness Center or that morning at 7 a.m. All participants will receive 50 points towards the cup. The Commander's Wellness Cup competition is designed to encourage healthy lifestyle choices. Individuals receive points by quitting smoking, doing aerobic activity, losing weight and body fat. The competition runs from Feb. 25 to June 9. At the end of the competition, winning units will receive trophies.

See Living on Page 18

Continued from Page 18

Tobacco class hours

The Tobacco Cessation Class (Kick the Habit) is at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. every Thursday.

Massage special

The HAWC is offering reduced price massages during February. Prices are \$20 for 30 minutes, \$40 for 60 minutes and \$55 for 90 Minutes. Gift certificates are available. Appointments are available from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays.

Library

652-4484

Genealogy class

Learn how to research family lineage in this

beginners class at the Library at 6 p.m. March 1 and 8. Deadline to sign up is Feb. 29.

Skills Development

652-2794

Children’s ceramics class

Children 4 and up are invited to make something special for Easter at the Skills Development Center. Class is 10 a.m. Feb. 26. Deadline to sign up is Tuesday.

Tickets and Tours

652-2192

Disneyland trip

The tour leaves from Nellis at 4 a.m. March 4 and reaches Disneyland at approximately 9 a.m. Play all day and arrive back to Nellis at 4 a.m. Cost is \$70 per person and includes admission and transportation. Thirty people

are required to sign up 10 days prior to trip departure, or the tour will be cancelled. The charter bus is complete with rest room and movies on board.

Sports and Fitness

652-6436

Silver State Classic

Military varsity basketball teams from around the Southwest have been invited to compete in the 25th Silver State Classic at the Sports and Fitness Center. The tournament is tonight through Monday. The first game is at 5 p.m. There is no admission fee.

Cardio room closure

The cardio room in the Sports and Fitness Center will be closed Tuesday through Feb. 29 due to electrical wiring repairs.

President’s Day holiday hours

The Automotive Skills Center, Bowling Center, Child Development Centers I and II, Community Center, Enlisted Club, Equipment Rental, Family Child Care Office, Gun Club, Human Resources Office, ITT, Library, Officers’ Club, Outdoor Recreation, Skills Development Center, and Youth Programs will be closed Monday in observance of the holiday.

The following 99th Services Squadron establishments will be open:
Crosswinds Inn 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., 4:30 to 6 p.m., 10:30 p.m. to midnight
Red Horse Inn 7 to 9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 4 to 6 p.m.
Golf Course 6:30 a.m. to dusk
Sports & Fitness Center 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Time Out Sports Lounge 4 to 10 p.m.

Gospel Jubilee!

The Nellis African-American Cultural Association will host a Gospel Jubilee at the Base Chapel Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. For more information, call 652-4040.





Celebrate Black Heritage

Living legend: Commander of Tuskegee Airman



Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., circa 1940's

By Senior Master Sgt. Nathan M. Dixon Jr.
57th Aircraft Generation Squadron

Graduating from West Point in 1936, Lt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., became one of only two black line officers in the U.S. Army. The other at that time was his father.

Lt. Davis was initially assigned to the infantry.

In July 1941, he joined 12 cadets in the first flying training program for blacks at Tuskegee, Ala. He received his wings in March 1942, after becoming the first black officer to solo an Army Air Corps aircraft.

Promoted to lieutenant colonel, six months shy of his 30th birthday, Gen. Davis assumed command of Tuskegee Army Air Base's 99th Fighter Squadron, the oldest and most famous unit of the Tuskegee Airman.

The next year, he became commander of the 332d Fighter Group. Flying the distinctive 332d "Red Tail" P-51 Mustangs, Lt. Col. Davis led the first Italy-based fighter group to escort bombers to Berlin, a distance of 1,600 miles. Under his command, the group flew more than 15,000 sorties against the Luftwaffe, shot down 111 enemy aircraft, and destroyed another 150 on the ground, while losing only 66 of their own aircraft.

Most noteworthy, not one friendly bomber was lost to enemy aircraft during the group's 200 escort missions. The unique success of this all-black outfit highlighted Gen. Davis' leadership, along with the

courage and discipline of his airmen.

This was not to be the last of his accomplishments. Notably, he received approval to form the Thunderbird aerial demonstration team as chief of the fighter branch at Air Force headquarters in 1950.

With his promotion to brigadier general, Gen. Davis became the first black to earn a star in the Air Force and he did so in just 18 years.

He retired as a lieutenant general in 1970, and served under President Nixon as Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Environment, Safety, and Consumer Affairs. Three decades after retiring from the Air Force, the 85-year-old former commander of the legendary Tuskegee airmen received his fourth star from President Bill Clinton Dec. 9, 1998.

At 85, Gen. Davis is the third military officer to become a four-star general in retirement and the first black officer to be so honored.